

Minutes  
Board of Supervisors  
Work Session  
March 3, 2015

Members Present: Johnny Woodward, Chairman At-Large  
D. Keith Guzy, Jr., District 1  
David Wiatrowski, District 2  
J. D. Cave, District 3  
Darrell Short, District 4  
Dorothy F. Pendley, District 5

Staff Present: Amity Moler, County Administrator  
Regina Miller, Assistant to the County Administrator  
Nathan Miller, County Attorney  
John Thomas, Sherriiff

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Johnny Woodward called to order the work session of the Page County Board of Supervisors on March 3, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors Room located in the Page County Government Center, 103 South Court Street, Luray, noting a quorum was present.

**Update on the Airport Authority:**

Powell Markowitz, Luray-Page County Airport Authority, said the occupancy in the hangers is good. In addition, the audit was received and he sent copies to be distributed as needed. He said the FAA considers the Luray Airport as small and by being a small airport it entitles the airport to significant grant dollars. The grant money comes from user fees and aviation fuels collected and not our tax money. Significant improvements have been made at the airport and this year's project is the relocation of Airport Road. Airport Road sits higher than the runway and is an obstruction; the road to the golf course will be moved farther south. He noted that there is \$3.5 million available for the construction and it will be put out to bid by end of this month.

Chairman Woodward asked about the FOIA requests for information to the Airport Authority and asked if they are being fulfilled. Mr. Markowitz said all request are in compliance.

Mr. Markowitz explained that the Authority has contracted the services of Page Valley Aviation owned by Kenny Painter and he manages the day to day operations. The airport is a 24 hour/day operation. It is estimated that there are 7,000 operations per year, and in 2014 helicopters were fueled 144 times. Mr. Markowitz said that the airport makes about \$1 a gallon on the low lead fuel sales. Supervisor Guzy asked who in the county benefits from people flying into the airport? Mr. Markowitz told him the owner of the Mimslyn said he grossed about \$75,000 in sales from people who have flown into

Luray. Supervisor Guzy asked for more follow-ups and PowerPoint presentations for the EDA to use to help promote the airport.

Supervisor Cave asked about the hangar occupancy and if they are paying for themselves. Mr. Markowitz said they have been able to keep the hangars rented and they have more money coming in now than going out and are building a reserve. Supervisor Cave then asked Mr. Markowitz if they are required, by law, to have a depository for the Airport Authority's files. Mr. Miller replied that the Authority is required and he is working with Mrs. Moler to collect the Authority's documents so they can be kept at the Government Center or Luray Town Office, so they are available. Supervisor Cave asked if the airport could ever be privatized. Mr. Markowitz replied no. He said it cannot be sold without paying back the grant money to the Federal Aviation Administration and Virginia Department of Aviation.

Mr. Markowitz then addressed a comment where an individual replied that he was taking money he receives for the hangar rent. He explained that Mr. Kenny Painter collects the rent on the hangars, which are written to the Treasurer of Page County and then Mr. Painter delivers the checks along with a report to the Treasurer.

Supervisor Wiatrowski asked how we are advertising the airport hangars. Mr. Markowitz said there is an app for electronic devices and it is filed with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Aviation which tells them everything they need to know about the airport.

**Update on the Alternative Suspension Center:**

John Van Wyck, School Director of Student Services/Title 1, reviewed the program and procedures, how many students had participated, and gave a comparison of the two years the program has been in place. He discussed the student success rate and the results of the students surveyed in the program. Overall the program has been a success in dealing with out of school suspension and trancies. He highlighted school administration comments on the program as well.

Supervisor Guzy commended the schools on their efforts for this program.

**Motion:** Supervisor Cave moved to approve continued funding for the Alternative Suspension Center to be budgeted and managed through CSA non-mandated funds. Supervisor Guzy seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Guzy, Wiatrowski, Cave, Short, Pendley, Woodward. Nay: None.

**School Resolution Requesting Arbitrage Funds:**

Donna Whitley-Smith, School Superintendent, said the School Board had adopted a Resolution to request remaining arbitrage funds to perform needed repairs at Shenandoah Elementary School. In February, refinancing of bonds was contingent upon expenditure of the remaining arbitrage funds within six months. She then asked the Board to approve the appropriation.

**Motion:** Supervisor Cave moved to approve the resolution from Page County School Board with appropriation of \$268,245.00 from arbitrage fund to repair Shenandoah Elementary School. Supervisor Guzy seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Wiatrowski, Cave, Short, Pendley, Guzy, Woodward. Nay: None.

**Library Funding Discussion:**

Lowell Baughan, Page Public Library, explained that the Massanutten Regional Library is under a mandate from the State to bring local funding up to the State minimums. There are three tests that the state applies to local funding in order to receive State aid. The first test is a per capita spending test, which the regional system failed. The second test is a ratio of government income to total income to the system, which they also failed. The third test is local government contributions plus endowment income as a ratio of population, which it also failed. The Massanutten Regional Library is one of four libraries in the state to fail all three tests and they rank 88 out of 91 libraries in the state, in terms of local support of local funding for libraries. In order to receive state aid, a plan must be submitted to the State Library to meet these requirements within five years. The plan must include a schedule of annual increases in local government contributions of not less than 20% of the amount needed to reach the goal within five years. This is only for local government funding of library services, not private funding. Massanutten Regional Library has developed a plan and the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County are the other partners in the regional system and they have agreed to meet the five steps to bring the funding up to the standard, in order to continue to receive state aid. They are requesting that Page County meet its proportional share of the funding. Harrisonburg and Rockingham have included in their agreement, with the State Library a statement that: "it is important to note that the current Board of Supervisors/City Council cannot commit future boards to any future financial actions as that action in effect creates debt that is not authorized under the Virginia Constitution." The County Administrator and City Manager have later stated in the contract that the City/County is committed to striving to meet at least the minimum local funding standards for the Massanutten Regional Library system. Failure to meet goals will result in the loss of state aid to the regional library system. If the funding amount for any given year falls below the steps over the next five years, then the result remain the same: we lose state aid. If Page County does not provide its proportionate share, then Page will be dropped from the regional system, rather than have the regional system lose \$360,000 in state aid. He pointed out that in his 40 years in being involved in the library system, Page has rarely met its proportionate share. In the past Harrisonburg and Rockingham have picked up the deficit in their budget rather than lose state aid. If Page gets dropped from the system, all the books, computers and staff will disappear; the County will lose access to the many different data bases the Library provides to its 10,000 cardholders in Page. Mr. Baughan reviewed the outline of the 5 year plan and the 5 year steps; he also provided a list of all services available as being part of the regional system. Private donations to the Page Library total \$24,000 yearly. He noted that the Page Public Library is owned by the Page Public Library Association and the Shenandoah Community Library is owned by that Association. The citizens of those communities provide the funds to either purchase or build those buildings. He asked

the Board to seriously consider what it would mean if the County was no longer in the regional system.

Chairman Woodward said he and Supervisor Wiatrowski met with the Page Public Library and listened to their presentation. Chairman Woodward asked the kids on his bus how many used the public libraries and he said over half of them said they do. Some have no computer at home to use, and Chairman Woodward pointed out that the libraries provided more services than just books.

Supervisor Guzy asked if the local budget for the Luray and Shenandoah libraries could be provided for the Board to review. He explained that the Board needs to have this before any decision could be made this year.

Supervisor Short said if the Board commits to the five year plan what happens at that point. Will the funding be good for a while or will the figures change between now and then and the County will have to catch up with funding again. Mr. Baughan indicated that he could not provide a direct answer to that question, but the calculations for figuring the state minimum are low.

Supervisor Cave said that the library in Stanley has community support and is thriving. It may be time for the communities of Luray and Shenandoah to out of the Massanutten Regional Library system. He said independent libraries can happen if the community wants it to happen. He asked if Luray and Shenandoah hold any fundraisers to supplement their income. Mr. Baughan said they do have book sales as well as raising all the funds in the \$24,000 private donations.

Supervisor Short asked if the state gives a certain percentage increase for libraries each year and if so, what would the percentage be in five years. Mr. Baughan said that the County can never expect to receive more than one-third of the funding for the regional system from the state. Supervisor Short then asked if the contributions from the County have to be cash contributions or can they be in-kind. Mr. Baughan said he was not sure but contributions have to come from the local government.

#### **Special Use Permit Briefing – Mountain View:**

Mrs. Moler said that an application for a Special Use Permit has been filed by Mountain View to operate a campground. The Planning Commission at their February 24, 2015 meeting, unanimously recommended approval and would like for the Board to approve the advertisement for public hearing for their March 17, 2015 meeting.

**Motion:** Supervisor Guzy moved that the Page County Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing on the Mountain View Resorts, LLC, Special Use Permit Application at the Board's March 17, 2015, meeting and direct staff to provide adequate notice of such hearing. Supervisor Wiatrowski seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Cave, Short, Pendley, Guzy, Wiatrowski, Woodward. Nay: None.

#### **Amendment to the Peddling & Soliciting Ordinance:**

Mrs. Moler said the County currently has a soliciting ordinance but it mainly deals with residential areas. Recently, the Sheriff's Office has received multiple complaints of individuals outside of stores soliciting money and food. Currently, there is no ordinance to address this. Mrs. Moler would like the Board to review the code from the City of Harrisonburg and amend the Page County Ordinance to include the same or similar restrictions and suggested that the County Attorney draft an ordinance to hold a public hearing on April 21, 2015.

Sheriff Thomas said the City of Harrisonburg has had extreme problems with panhandlers becoming aggressive and caused them to enact an emergency panhandling ordinance. By doing so, the panhandlers have moved into the surrounding counties, which is why the County needs an ordinance in place.

**Motion:** Supervisor Guzy moved to have the County Attorney draft an ordinance to entail aggressive peddling for public hearing on April 21, 2015. Supervisor Cave seconded and motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Short, Pendley, Guzy, Wiatrowski, Cave, Woodward. Nay: None.

**Resolution to Amend Personnel Policies Manual:**

Nathan Miller, County Attorney, said when the contract for Mrs. Moler was completed one instruction was for it to include a severance package comparable to all employees. In the current policy, it excluded the County Administrator from participating in that severance. The Resolution simply takes the words County Administrator out of the current policy.

**Motion:** Supervisor Cave moved to adopt the Resolution to amend personnel policies manual as presented. Supervisor Pendley seconded and the motion carried by a vote of 6-0. Aye: Pendley, Guzy, Wiatrowski, Cave, Short, Woodward. Nay: None.

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#2015-01

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF PAGE, VIRGINIA  
RESOLUTION TO AMEND PERSONNEL POLICIES MANUAL

WHEREAS, the County of Page has determined it should amend the Personnel Policies Manual;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Page to amend Article 12.4 (F), Severance Pay, to read as follows:

"This Severance Pay Policy is optional, at the sole discretion of the County Administrator, and may be applied to all non-probationary, full-time County employees who work 35 hours or more per week and who are eligible to receive a full pay and benefit package with

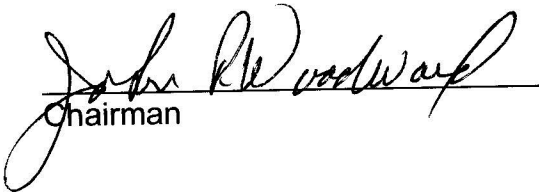
the exception of employees funded by grants and members of the Board of Supervisors.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of the proposed amended Article 12.4 (F) of the Personnel Policies Manual shall be lodged with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and made available for review by citizens of the County during normal business hours.

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**Adjourn:** 9:13 p.m.

With no further business, Chairman Woodward adjourned the meeting.

  
Chairman

  
County Administrator